GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 14. SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

NO PRICE TOO GREAT TO PAY FOR FREEDOM.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, June 21st, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park.
7.30 p.m.—The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Dr. Mansell-Moullin, Mrs. Merivale Meyer.
Monday, June 22nd, 3 p.m.—The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Members' meeting.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Speakers' Class.
8.30 p.m.—Swiss Cottage, S. Hackney—Miss Holmes.
8 p.m.—Priscilla Rd., Bow.
8 p.m.—Freemason's Rd., Canning Town—Mrs. Laski.
Tuesday, June 23rd, 8 p.m.—Dock Gates, Poplar—Mr. Mewitt.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.
Wednesday, June 24th, 8 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd., Poplar—Miss Jacobs.
8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall, 178 Bow Rd.—Mrs. Tyson.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St. & Charles St., Bromley.
Thursday, June 25th, 3 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd., Poplar—Miss Canning.
3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Rd., Limehouse.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town.
8 p.m.—Woodstock Rd., Poplar.
Friday, June 26th, 8 p.m.—Ford Rd., Bow.
8 p.m.—Piggott St., Poplar—Mr. Jane.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd., Canning Town—Mrs. Laski.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Members' Meeting.
Sunday, June 28th, 5 p.m.—Trafalgar Square F.C.S.U. Demonstration.

HOW ASQUITH SHIRKS.

We print below the correspondence which passed between the members of the East London deputation and the Prime Minister who is partly supported by women's money and one of whose duties it is to listen to the grievances of His Majesty's subjects and devise a means of redressing them. The wording of Mr. Asquith's second letter is especially significant as showing that he has not grasped the fundamental duties of his position. He says that *the views of the Government* were explained at considerable length. It seems that Mr. Asquith has yet to learn that deputations do not visit him to hear his views on any subject but to lay the views of the people he is supposed to represent before him.

[COPY.]

June 12th, 1914.

Dear Sir,—As members of the deputation who came to the House to see you on Wednesday last, we must express very strongly our dissatisfaction at not being received by you. We can see no reason why you should not see us and hear what we (as working women) have to say about the franchise. You cannot possibly know what the views of the people are if you will not listen to them. You have never received a deputation of working women on this question, therefore, until you know the why and wherefore of their demands, you are quite unable to judge the right or wrong of what they are demanding.

Will you, therefore, reconsider your decision and make it convenient to receive the deputation?

We suggest Tuesday, the 16th inst., as a suitable date, but if another date (quite early) will suit you better, we shall be pleased to study your convenience.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favourable reply,

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
Mrs. E. IVES. Mrs. J. SCURR.
,, F. FORD. ,, C. DRAKE.
,, G. FARRELL. ,, M. PARSONS.
,, M. WALKER. ,, J. PAYNE.
,, A. BIRD.

[COPY.]

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.
June 13th, 1914.

Dear Madam,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, which will receive consideration, and a further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. J. SCURR. ERIC DRUMMOND.

[COPY.]

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.
June 15th, 1914.

Dear Madam,—In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, I am desired by the Prime Minister to say that he has twice informed the Hon. Secretary of your Federation that he is unable to receive a deputation, and he regrets that he is unable to reconsider this decision. As you are, doubtless, aware, deputations have been received by the Prime Minister and other Members of the Cabinet, which were representative of the constitutional organisations connected with the Women's Suffrage Movement. At nearly all these deputations working women were either present or their opinion represented. The views of the Government were explained to the members of the deputations at considerable length, and no change has taken place in the situation since then.

The Prime Minister has been compelled to refuse requests from a large number of bodies for similar deputations, and, after careful consideration of all the circumstances, he does not think that there is any reason why the East London Federation should receive exceptional treatment.

If, however, the Federation desire to call the attention of the Prime Minister to any special points, perhaps you would be good enough to communicate them to him in writing, when he will not fail to give them full and careful consideration.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC DRUMMOND.

IS SHE TO DIE?

The following letter has been sent by a member of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes to Mr. Will Thorne, Member of Parliament for the division in which she lives. It is typical of many that have been sent by working women to Members at this crisis:—

"Dear Sir,—I am writing to you, as our representative of West Ham Borough, asking if you will kindly use your influence and power to persuade the Prime Minister to receive our deputation. How can he know how great is the need for Votes for Women if he will not give us a hearing? I can assure you, without the slightest exaggeration, times are very hard for women. I, myself, have made shirts for a living, or rather a bare existence, this last 20 years, and work that I, a few years ago, received 3s. 7d. a dozen for making, I now have to do the self same work for 2s. 7d. Who is to blame? I think you know. Can you wonder we are at war, when good women are being driven to suicide, and in some cases something worse. Sir, I beg of you, as a man and a father, to do all that lies in your power to convince the Premier where he is wrong. Just a word from him, consenting to receive our deputation, would save that noble little woman, Sylvia Pankhurst, from death by starvation. Should she die, it will be a very serious matter, for ours is a true Socialist's spirit. 'An injury to one is an injury to all.' I trust you will act as soon as possible, as delay is dangerous."

The letter, to which the name and address of the writer were appended, has received an unsatisfactory and evasive reply. Others who have written to Mr. Thorne have received exactly the same answer, showing that he does not even consider his constituents' letters individually, but has supplied his secretary with a draft copy to be used to all who write on this subject.

CAXTON HALL MEETING.

That East London is determined that Mr. Asquith shall receive the suffrage dequtation of working women and men, and thereby save the life of Sylvia Pankhurst, is well known to all who live and work there. That Suffragists of all kinds and classes are backing up that determination, was well proved by the meeting, hastily convened by the Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, and held in the Caxton Hall on Monday June 15th.

Though the notice had been short the attendance was good, and the audience keenly enthusiastic.

Mrs. Mansell Moullin, who presided, explained the object of the meeting. Mr. H. W. Nevinson in moving the resolution calling upon the Prime Minister to "receive the deputation of working women and men elected by the people of Bow, Bromley, Poplar, Limehouse and West Ham," scathingly condemned the attitude of the Government and of the King, in refusing to listen to the claims of the women. He spoke with deep feeling of Sylvia Pankhurst, her courage and devotion, and graphically described the procession of June 10th and Miss Pankhurst's re-arrest.

He was followed by Mrs. Parsons, who put the whole matter from the standpoint of the East London working woman.

Then came an appeal for money from the chair. The response was prompt and generous, several cheques being handed up in addition to the ordinary collection.

Miss Evelyn Sharp was the next speaker, she also spoke as a witness of the events on the night of Miss Pankhurst's arrest, and dwelt on the significance of the large numbers of working men whose presence on that occasion proved that they are making this question their own.

As she concluded with a tribute to George Lansbury and his gallant challenge to his namesake George V. the challenger himself appeared on the platform, and was greeted with vigorous applause. His appeal was especially to the men, and he urged upon them to call at the House of Commons to see their respective members of Parliament, and ask them to put pressure upon Mr. Asquith. He satirised the Press for their habitual misrepresentation of everything in connection with the movement for Freedom.

Miss Amy Hicks made a brief appeal for workers, and emphasised the need for immediate action at this crisis.

The resolution was carried unanimously and before the meeting broke up the enthusiasm that had been aroused found an outlet in many promises of very practical help.

McKENNA'S TRIBUTE TO THE MILITANTS.

On Thursday, June 11th, the debate on the Home Office took place. This was chiefly concerned with the Suffragettes and the methods to be employed to stop their activities.

Mr. McKenna said that: "The present situation was a phenomenon absolutely without precedent, and then discussed four alternatives for dealing with it.

1. Let them die (which was the most popular).
2. Deport them.
3. Treat them as lunatics.
4. Give them the franchise.

LET THEM DIE.

"Those who say 'Let them die if they choose to starve themselves,' usually base their views on the conviction that if they themselves were told that they would left to die they would take their food. Let me give in opposition to that the opinion of a medical expert who has had infinite knowledge of the Suffragettes from the first. His advice to me is as follows:—'I am of opinion, and this opinion is borne out by statements made by some of the prisoners, that they believe it would help their cause if a Suffragette died in prison. That they desire to risk this, to put it on the lowest estimate, is clearly shown by the fact that the prisoners refuse and violently resist medical examination; and what is more suggestive, several of them surreptitously go on hunger strike—that is, they make out they are taking their food but are throwing it away, and it is only later, when they begin to exhibit marked signs of exhaustion and symptons of inanition, that this is discovered.'

"I do not think that anybody who has dealt with them need have any hesitation in declaring his firm conviction that if they either were not fed or were not discharged, they would certainly die. There are those who hold another assumption. They think that after one or two deaths in prison militancy would cease. In my judgment there was never a greater

(continued on page 54)

Mr. ASQUITH has consented to receive a Deputation of Six Working Women on Saturday

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d, to cover membership and postage.

ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER.

Deal with our Advertisers.

The president of the Incorporated Society of Advertisement Consultants said, on May 14th: "Woman is making her influence felt in the advertising business, and as most of the buying in the world is done by women, it is natural that man, the amateur buyer, should be easily influenced by advertising conducted by women, who are the professional buyers." For the same reason, a woman's paper, such as the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, managed and read by women is an excellent advertising medium for household necessaries.

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A. GLIKSTEN,
Advertisement Manager.

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Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

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Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 14.—Saturday, June 20th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THRIFT.

It was in a wide park and the path led through wonderful old oaks and chestnuts and broad open spaces, where there were flocks of sheep and deer.

Where the ground dipped into a hollow were two little cottages covered with a tangled mass of roses and honeysuckle, and with their little garden plots ablaze with close-growing old-fashioned flowers. In the most flowery of these two cottages lived an old woman, well over 90 years of age. Her clothes were always of plain black stuff and her dresses, copied one from another, were always made with the skirt full, the bodice very straight and plain, and the sleeves without a cuff, as country women wore them when she was young.

Her father worked on this estate all his life, managing one of the near-by farms for the Lord who owns the park. Her mother worked, too, and she and all her sisters, milking and caring for the lambs and poultry; but only her father was paid a wage.

Her husband had also been employed here from a boy and in time had become the principal game-keeper. For years, in addition, he and she had managed a large farm for the Lord with numbers of men and women under them. All this time her husband was never paid more than a pound a week, and she nothing at all. Yet she, like her mother before her, had washing and cooking and cleaning to attend to for the workpeople, and milking, and dairying, and poultry-keeping beside. The children from the great house had always found a welcome in her kitchen, and had come to her regularly on baking day for home-made cakes.

"That work at the farm was a bit too much for us, it turned us into old people; for, of course, he had always the game to think of beside, and had most of the farm to see to, the last years when he began to get ill." Very often she said this to me, but always added: "I've worked hard for Lord —— and now he does a lot for me."

After her husband died the agent had at once told her that she must leave the cottage, and only a personal appeal to the Lord had won her the right to stay. Then the Lord had said that she might live rent free in the cottage and have as much skim milk from the farm as she could drink.

"It's little enough to give you, after all your years of unpaid work!" I used to say to her, but she would smile and answer: "Lord —— doesn't understand all that I've done for him."

She was still wonderfully quick and active, when I first knew her, in spite of her ninety odd years, and could climb nimbly over the five barred gates and stiles. She lived alone in the cottage and did all her own housework and, as who could wonder, she lived largely on the Lord's skim milk, which she always kept warming in a jug on the hob. Until quite recently she had made her own dresses, and still was always busy with darning, or mending, or patchwork quilts.

She was able even to do a little mending and cooking for her son, who lived next door and who worked for the Lord, as his father had done, and had a big family of sons. His wife had just died and one of his daughters, who was engaged to be married in a week's time, came home to stay a few days with her father and brothers, and on her wedding morning finished cleaning down the house, and was pumping water from the well and whitening the doorstep within an hour of her wedding.

"People ask me if I am not lonely and whether I am not afraid to live by myself," the old woman said to me, "Of course I am not lonely, I should be very wicked if I were! Haven't I got my dear son living next door to me? It's true he and the boys are out all day, but look at the beautiful flowers and the birds I have got all around me. Listen to that dear little thing singing away there now! Why should I be afraid indeed? Nobody wants to harm me. God can look after me just the same wherever I am and I'm sure I shan't die until he wants me to." So she would talk on, rambling as solitary people do, who are glad to have found someone to listen well, and always she spoke kindly and seemed sweet tempered and generous to all.

Sometimes she mentioned her son's wife, who had just died of phthisis, with the gentle sorrow and regret for a friend and companion who was gone. But one morning she seemed strangely agitated and for a time seemed hardly able to speak. Then she began to talk of the dead woman. Her son had just discovered that his wife had died owing £5 to the tradespeople. "She hadn't been doing right for a long time," said the old woman. "I'd watched her and I knew she wasn't going straight. People like us can't afford to go putting beef steak on for dinner for a lot of hungry men, as she did, instead of making it into a pudding so as it'd go further. She got that she hadn't strength to take trouble as she should and when she knew she was going, she let things slide. But she should have had more thought for those who'd be left when she was gone. Many a time I've seen her stop and lean with her hand on the table and gasp for breath, and I've asked her 'can't you get on with your work?' 'Oh I'll manage,' she'd say, and then I've seen her go out and cough! The old woman spoke with bitterness as though her daughter-in-law's physical weakness had been a shameful fault. 'We used to take the bread in for each other,' she went on 'and more than once the man has asked me when she was going to pay.' I never said anything, but I knew things weren't going right. And I know where some of that money's gone to, and I've told my son." Then she explained that her son's eldest daughter was married to a man who was chronically out of work and had three little children. She had been always coming round to ask the mother for food or money. Her father said that she had chosen her own lot and that nothing was to be given to her, but her mother had gone on helping her in secret whenever she could.

For this reason, and because of her own growing weakness and lessened ability to cope with the cares of housekeeping, the debt, so crushingly large to these poor people, gradually accumulated.

"I don't know how George'll ever manage to pay off the money," the piteous old voice went on, "Its been a hard struggle to pay for the funeral as it is. He only found out last night that she owed anything." "She hasn't been the good wife I thought her, mother," he said "I didn't think she'd have done it."

And so they shook their heads together and wondered however that money was to be paid; and in their trouble they bitterly blamed, not the Lord for whom they had done so much in return for so little, but that poor dead woman who had gone on working until the day she died. How tragic, that after 30 years of sacrifice and labour for them, she should be thought to have lost all right to the affection and gratitude of her family, because of this paltry debt!

That never ending, painful contriving to make ends meet on little wages, with many mouths to feed, weighs down the hearts of poor working mothers, and warps the whole current of their lives. Where every penny must be closely counted, an accident, an illness, or misforture, means getting into debt and borrowing from pawnbrokers and moneylenders who charge outrageously high interest to the poor.

Last week three cases of mothers' suicide were reported in the newspapers. One woman's husband had given way to drink, the husbands of the other two were out of employment. It was only just possible for these women to make ends meet when their husband's small weekly wages were coming in regularly. They could not face the future with an added load of debt that they might never be able to pay off.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

(*continued from page* 53.)

delusion. . . So far from it putting an end to militancy, I believe it would be the greatest incentive to militancy which could ever happen. For every militant who dies there would be scores of women who would come forward for the honour—as they would deem it—of earning the crown of martyrdom. . . . . They are hysterical fanatics, but coupled with their hysterical fanaticism they have a courage which, as part of their fanaticism, undoubtedly stands at nothing; they would come forward, not merely to risk death but to undergo it for what they deem the greatest cause on earth. I am sure that however strong public opinion outside might be today in favour of allowing them to die, when there were 20 or 30, or 40, or more deaths in prison you would have a violent reaction of public opinion.

Let hon. members for a moment in imagination transport themselves to a prison cell and conceive of a prison doctor, a humane man, standing by watching a woman slowly being done to death by starvation and thirst, knowing that he could help her and keep her alive. If there are those who think that any doctor would go on with such action, or that we should be able to retain any medical men under such conditions in our service, I do not believe it. The doctor would think, as I should think if I saw her lying there: "What has been this woman's offence? It may have been obstructing the police, coupled with the obstinacy derived from fanaticism, which leads her to refuse food and water. Obstructing the police, and is she to die! I could not distinguish between them, and no Home Secretary could ever say that this woman is to die and that that woman should not. Once we were committed to the policy of allowing them to die if they did not take their food, we should have to go on with it, and we should have woman after woman whose only offence may have been obstructing the police, breaking a window, or even burning down an empty house, dying because she was obstinate. I do not believe that that is a policy which will ever commend itself to the British people, and I am bound to say for myself that I should never take a hand in carrying that policy out."

Mr. McKenna then showed that: "Deportation did not get over the difficulty, as the women would still have the courage to hunger and thirst strike, and the island they were taken to would become a prison and the same difficulty would remain.

"He could not treat them as lunatics as no doctor would certify them insane.

"The fourth proposition to grant them the franchise he dismissed as outside his province."

He said: "The complaint the Press generally raised was that the women were not punished for their offences, that they commit these crimes and go scot-free. There was never a greater delusion in this world. What do the first six or eight days mean under the self-inflicted torture? No food, no water; that is some punishment at any rate, and a very severe punishment. In my judgment, six or eight days of hunger and thirst strike, without food or water, is far more severe than two or even three months imprisonment under ordinary conditions of prison life. Perhaps they are discharged at the end of six or eight days, what happens then? Their sentence remains open, they are re-arrested in two or three weeks and go through it again; then they are liberated. If the offence has been a more serious offence, such as arson or the destruction of works of art, they are forcibly fed. That is continued as long as their health will stand it; they are then liberated and their sentence still remains open. Is not that punishment? And owing to their misconduct they are punished far more heavily than if they had served their sentence."

Mr. McKenna thus showed that he had a keen appreciation of the sufferings which the hunger and thirst strikers undergo. This fact makes his treatment of the women all the more horrible, and at the same time ought to make all those who heard what he said, or read it, realize that the only solution lies in the fourth alternative, i.e.—giving the franchise. If women do not fear torture or death, as he proves they do not, you cannot coerce them in any possible way, and the only alternative to coercion is to accede to their demands.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst feels so deeply that this is the only remedy, and that the only way to bring about its realisation is for another woman to sacrifice her life, that she has staked her own in the hope of accomplishing it, and so ending the appalling amount of suffering which the women who are fighting for this great cause of humanity have had to endure. It is inconceivable that people who now acknowledge that women should have the vote can allow this sacrifice to take place. Those who know this gentle and courageous woman realise to the full what her death will mean, not only to themselves, but to the whole cause of humanity. Surely it cannot be that there are human beings so lost to all sense of nobility, that they will suffer it to take place without raising a finger to prevent it. All possible pressure must be brought to bear upon Mr. Asquith to make him receive the deputation, in order that the price of its admission may not be Miss Pankhurst's life.

MOORE PIANO. Perfect condition and tone; 9 guineas; bargain.—11 Parkhurst Road, Holloway.

MIDDLE-AGED NURSE (medical and mental certificates) wishes to accompany a lady or children to Sydney, Australia.—Nurse Anderson, 104 Longley Road, Tooting.

THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, of U.S.A., is one of the few really original thinkers of our time. In the May number of the *Forerunner*, a New York monthly magazine, of which she is the author, owner, and publisher, she says, in regard to the immigration question:—"There are certain steps which could be taken by this nation which would prove more effective than exclusion laws; one is in the shape of welcome, warm, hearty, and compulsory.

"You wish to be an American citizen? Come then, you shall be—you must be. Here is our National Training School of Citizenship, all immigrants must pass through it.

"This institution should have great tracts of land near the designated ports of entry, and on that land models, models of all that America most respects and desires for its children, model farms, model factories, model schools, all of the best we know. Here the newcomers should be apprenticed to America for a period of time varying according to their capacity. Old and young, men and women, should here be trained, mentally, morally and physically, as to health, as to clothing, as to the moral standards and manners of the country; trained in the language, history, hopes and purposes; trained by a great corps of teachers, the best that the country could offer, honoured and paid in accordance with the transcendent value of their services—Interpreters of America."

Though we have an enormously smaller number of alien immigrants in proportion to the size of our population than has America, we, nevertheless, hear a good deal in England also of the incoming of the unwelcome foreigner, who is often charged with taking the bread out of the mouths of our native workers. But what should we teach these alien immigrants if we were to set up a school of interpreters of England? What are the "moral standards and manners," the "hopes and purposes" of our country? Any who come down to East London and see the extreme poverty in which our own British people are living, must ask themselves this question in all seriousness.

Recently there came before the Alien Immigration Board the case of a young Russian girl, who wished to come to London and do tailoring work for her brother's employer at a weekly wage of 13s. 6d. The Alien Immigration Board refused this girl admission into the country until her prospective employer agreed to pay her a wage of 17s. 6d., and promised to increase this sum after a short time, because the members of the Board said that a girl could not live respectably in London on less than that. Well we know that large numbers of our own women, many of them widows with children to support, are earning no more than seven or eight shillings a week! But if we could only set our national house in order. Mrs. Gilman's idea is one that might well be adapted to our own country.

She goes on, "And who is to pay for all this?

"The Immigrants, of course, honestly, by their own labour, receiving full value of all that they pay."

"But this is-is-Exploitation!" splutters the rampant upholder of "liberty."

"What becomes of the immigrants now? Are they not exploited, outrageously, by everyone, from the steamship agent to the employer, landlord, and shopkeeper—with no value returned but the barest living?

"In this National Bureau, with its farms, shops, mills, schools and homes, employment would be found, plus instruction. All would be paid good wages, and those wages would support the whole thing.

"The 'surplus product' which now enriches the employer or landlord, would first be used for the education of the newcomer, and would further allow of more 'saving' for himself than he could ever have made in swarming competition with his helpless, underpaid, overcharged fellows.

"Year by year we should turn out into the country a widespread, carefully located sprinkling of newcomers, not congested at the port of entry, not exploited by greedy corporations, but planted where the country needed them, and where they had already learned how to best serve the country and maintain themselves.

"Another source of income to meet our immediate extra expenses from alien defectives could be a special tax levied upon all importers of labour, to meet the cost of such as should become a charge upon society. They, whose immense profit comes from bringing them in, should take care of them if they become unfit later. That is no more than fair.

"Such a National Training Bureau as above outlined, would of course insist on the full and compulsory education of every child in our schools, public or private, wherever the immigrants settle. If they come to America they must become Americans, and the sooner the better."

IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

A lightning strike of girls employed at the works of the Caxton Printing Company, Beccles, has resulted in a gain of a farthing an hour all round. Their whole demand of halfpenny an hour might have been conceded if the boys who struck almost simultaneously had not gone back without them.

The strike at Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s works continues, and we are glad to report that the men are backing the women splendidly. It is stated that the dispute arose over Government work. Where women are employed a "fair wages" clause is generally omitted from Government contracts.

The hosiery lock-out in Leicester has ended in the re-instatement of some of the women and a vague promise to the rest that they will be taken on at the employer's convenience.

Women strawberry-pickers at Crocken Hill and Swanley, Kent, left the fields on Tuesday and joined the farm-hands on strike.

Deptford tin-box makers struck last week at the works of Messrs. A. Lloyd & Son, and of Messrs. Francis. The latter have conceded the girls' demands, and 300 have gone back to work; this victory will probably strengthen the position of Messrs. Lloyd's employees.

THIS WEEK'S PROTESTS.

Destruction of West door of Chipstead Church by fire.

Damage to Coronation Chair and Stone.

Bomb explosion in St. George's, Hanover Square.

Protests in a dozen West End Theatres.

Protest by chained women in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Windows of Birmingham Labour Exchange broken.

Golf Links at Murrayfield, near Edinburgh, damaged.

"Votes for Women" written on Newquay Lawn Tennis Courts.

Motor Garage including Car and Motor Cycle completely destroyed.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Mrs Drummond is again at liberty after a hunger and thirst strike of six days, but she is in a very serious condition.

Eleven prisoners are being forcibly fed although their crimes are trivial. This is in direct contravention of Mr. McKenna's undertaking, "that only prisoners convicted of serious crimes should be forcibly fed."

Miss Mary Richardson is still in Holloway, and no news of her has been received.

Miss Christine Alden was released on Wednesday in a serious state of health.

Miss Sarah Bennet and Miss Lilias Mitchell have been re-arrested under the Cat and Mouse Act.

THE STRAW-HATTED GANG.

The press has been partially successful in stirring up mob violence against the Suffragettes, and the dismissal of the police charges against the aggressors not only encourages the "nuts," who come to meetings in order to make trouble, but discourages the police in the exercise of their duty the preservation of law and order without respect of persons or political parties.

At Portsmouth the Suffrage speakers were seriously attacked in the Town Hall Square last Saturday, and the Chief Constable has now intimated that he will take no responsibility in the future for disturbances at Suffrage meetings.

It is significant that at the dockyard gates, where real working men presumably outnumber the "nuts," there is little or no disturbance.

On Sunday there were disturbances at Suffrage meetings on Streatham Common, Hampstead Heath, and in Hyde Park. The prevalent type of aggressor is the weedy youth of nineteen or twenty, who has no political opinions, but who finds "ragging the Suffragettes" a pleasant form of amusement on a Sunday. The press endeavours to prove from these occasional outbursts of youthful rowdyism that the thinking public is opposed to Woman Suffrage. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Votes for Women can be surely won by the "No Vote, No Rent Strike" send in your names for it at once.

IN THE COURTS.

Poplar Docker's Wife sent to Prison.

On Tuesday, June 16th, Mrs. Walker, a well-known Poplar speaker, appeared before Mr. Leycester at the Thames Police Court to answer to the charge of using inciting language in Limehouse Town Hall at the recent meeting there. A large number of friends were present, with an average of at least one detective to each member of the genuine public. The evidence was of the kind that we are accustomed to hear in these cases—a few strongly worded sentences torn from their context, and given a prominence which was never theirs in the original speech. No evidence was offered that Mrs. Walker's speech had, in fact, been the occasion of any breach of the law, which an ordinary person would consider to be of some importance!

Asked if she had anything to say, Mrs. Walker made a fine defence:—

"The witnesses have deposed that during my speech I used certain words. I have no notes of the speech, neither were any taken by any person in connection with our movement; I cannot, therefore, legally contradict the witnesses.

If, for sake of argument, the words are admitted, I claim that they do not bear the construction put upon them. Isolated sentences cannot give the tenour of a speech; I was showing the audience that extreme militancy did not exist in East London because the public were sympathetic towards Votes for Women.

I am entitled to ask what are we women to do in futherance of our legitimate political agitation.

Sir Edward Carson advocates and organizes armed resistance to the Government in Ulster. He remains a privy councillor, a honoured guest of the King, and the Prime Minister seeks to meet Sir Edward's objections by introducing an amending Home Rule Bill. Surely the Government here teaches us it only obeys force.

If we desire to hold public meetings, the Poplar Borough Council will not allow us the use of the public halls, which we ratepayers, both direct and indirect, have to maintain.

If we hold meetings in the open air, persons incited thereto by powerful newspapers come and break the meetings up. When such persons have been brought before Magistrates (except at North London) they have been practically discharged with encouragement.

If we seek to approach the Prime Minister, he refuses to see us, and turns the West End into an armed camp to resist us.

If we seek to petition the King, his Majesty by evil council is prevented from receiving our petition, and the women are bludgeoned.

If we walk through the streets in procession, our processions are broken up by the police, banners and musical instruments are destroyed.

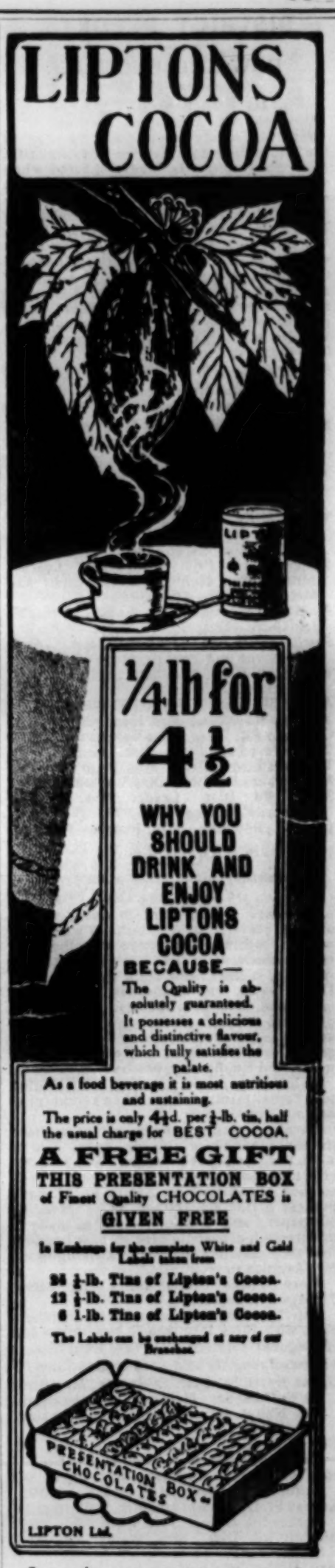
What are we to do? What method are we to adopt? The Government bows to force in Ireland; it stops us at every turn, and prevents us using legal and constitutional methods; it teaches us that it is only force we can rely upon.

It treats prisoners differently if they are men. 'George Lansbury is free.' Our Sylvia Pankhurst for the same offence has been arrested eight times under the Cat and Mouse Act. Where is the justice?

Further, no evidence can be given that any acts of militancy followed my speech; on the contrary, a great procession marched to the West, and dispersed one mile from the House of Commons according with the law. What do you want? When we are doing legal things we are wrong! When we do illegal things we are wrong! Can you wonder that we chafe at the whole thing and regard all your law as a huge conspiracy to keep people in slavery?

Why does not Scotland Yard, instead of attempting to harass women engaged in a perfectly constitutional political agitation, driving them all the time to violence, pay attention to the things that really matter?

Why were wealthy people allowed to go free in the 'Piccadilly Flat case'? Why is nothing done to stop the sale of little children in London for horrible offences? Why is not the great White Slave organisation destroyed?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I am in no way repentant. I am willing to use every constitutional method to gain the great reform of Votes for Women. I do not want to use any other means, but the Government will not permit us any other way.

Votes for Women we are going to have, and the sooner the Government recognizes this the better, then public money will not be wasted by Scotland Yard, and the time of magistrates will not be taken up with absurd cases of this character.

The whole charge is farcical, and I ask you, sir, to dismiss it."

Mr. Leycester admitted that he agreed with much that Mrs. Walker had said; but "justice" triumphed, and on refusing to find sureties to be of good behaviour the defendant was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. This, however, the magistrate agreed to reduce to one month, when it was pointed out to him that the latter sentence had lately been given at Bow Street for the same offence.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS, keep fit, by spending week-ends at breezy Brighton. Board residence (vegetarian or otherwise).—Miss Turner (W.S.P.U.), "Sea View," Victoria Road. Terms—From 3s. per day, or 18s. per week.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—MRS. IVES.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Splendid rally meeting on Tuesday.

Members of the meeting elected to go on the deputation to interview Mr. Asquith. Miss Pankhurst was loudly cheered when she told her followers she depended on them to support her. In spite of police brutality on Wednesday, deputation reached the House and interviewed the chief Whip. Workers have been going each day interviewing their members of the House of Commons, and also picketing Holloway night and day, hoping against hope that *their leader* will be soon released; but at time of going to press have had no news. Will friends rally up as soon as possible and help picket and lobby.

678 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending June 12

Mrs. Moore sold 170.
Miss Bennett sold 134.

Ford Rd. and Fairfoot Rd. Dists. Leader, Mrs. Burton. Helpers, Mrs. Kelly, Miss Gatward, Miss King—500.

Vivian Rd., Campbell Rd. and Kenilworth Rd. Dists. Leader. Miss Boyce. Helpers, Miss Heiser and Miss N. Lansbury—500.

Turner's Rd. and St. Paul's Rd. Dists. Leaders, Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore. Helper, Miss Marks—500.

Usher Rd. and Priscilla Rd. Dists. Leader, Mrs. Kelly. Helpers, Miss Turner and Miss Willmore—400.

St. Stephen's Rd. Dist. Leader, Mrs. W. Lansbury. Helper, Mrs. Savoy—500.

Fairfield Rd. and Edgar Rd. Dists. Mrs. McCheyne and Mrs. Knudson—350.

Tredegar Rd. and Merchant St. Dists. Mrs. Carlisle—200.

Appian Rd. Dist. Mrs. Clarke—200.

Medway Rd. Dist. Mrs. Hope—200.

Cardigan Rd. Dist. Miss Vernham—200.

White Post Lane Dist. Mrs. Husted—200.

Tomlin's Grove Dist. Mrs. Mantle—200.

Malmesbury Rd. Dist. Mrs. Watkins—200.

Smeed Rd. Dist. Leader, Mrs. Weaver. Helper, Mrs. Denham—200.

High St., Bromley. Mrs. Pascoe—100.

POPLAR.

Organiser—MISS MARY PATERSON.
Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.

Members worked hard in usual way to make procession to Westminster a success. A good contingent marched with the local representatives for the deputation to Mr. Asquith, at their head, from the East India Dock Gates, on Wednesday night. The bandsmen, some of whom had to come long distances after their day's work, were late, and we had to march without them, but they gallantly hurried after us, playing all the while, and finally overtook us.

In lobbying, poster parading, and picketing too, Poplar members have taken a prominent and most useful part.

Members please remember that we have the same number of *Dreadnoughts* now as when they were given free, and that an extra effort is needed to sell them. There is no way so good of getting Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's present action understood, as by spreading our paper; and everyone must be made to understand, especially here in East London, that they may join with us in striving to get Mr. Asquith to yield.

More sellers wanted for Chrisp Street Fridays and Saturdays.

The love and sympathy of all members goes with Miss Peterson in her illness and consequent enforced departure from us.

83 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending June 12

Upper North St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk St. *Helpers*, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cressell, Mrs. Organ—1,500.

Chrisp St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper*, Miss Edy—400.

Isle of Dogs. *Captain*, Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk St. *Helper*, Mrs. Neuss.—2,000.

Kerbey St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerbey St. *Helper*, Mrs. Churcher—200.

Burdett Rd. Dist. Mrs. Walker and Miss Lloyd—300.

Mrs. Hicks, 36 Aberfeldy St.—200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Members are thanked for going poster parading and picketing outside Holloway prison. We urge men and women to write to their Member of Parliament, and to ask them to get Mr. Asquith to receive deputation as "Sylvia's" life is at stake. A good indoor meeting was held on Thursday when Miss Wright gave an interesting speech. A huge crowd was at Beckton Road corner on Friday, and many questions were put to Miss Paterson, who very ably answered them. Miss Greenleaf thanked for helping secretary by taking papers to members.

68 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending June 12

Canning Town. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. and Miss Tate, 37 Tyas Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Little, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Tidmarsh.

Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributor — Miss A. Dunbar.

Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributors—Miss Greenleaf and Miss Kelsey.

Plaistow. Dist. leaders—Miss Putt, 67 Wigston Rd. & Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Ward & Mrs. Lawrence.

Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributor—Miss Nicholas.

SOUTH HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG,
100 Greenwood Rd., Dalston.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Militant Organiser—
Rev. CHARLES A. WILLS, B.A.,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

The organiser wishes to thank all members who rallied so splendidly at Hyde Park last Sunday. We regret to announce that Mr. Allan Clark, one of our members and a good fighter, has left East London on a speaking tour to Wales, to propagate the Suffrage cause there. The East London Men's Society will lose two strong supporters, both in Mr. Clark and his companion Mr. Will Cullen, and we wish them every success and a speedy return. Our membership is rapidly increasing, but we are greatly handicapped through lack of funds. Mrs. Sadd-Brown hopes that our members will fight on, and that victory will be ours before the life of our noble comrade, Sylvia Pankhurst, has been sacrificed. She is sending us a donation of £2, and it is hoped that others will follow her example.

Applications for membership should be sent to the Secretary,

Hon. Sec.—ERIC W. ROBERTS,
321 Roman Road, Bow, London, E.

SELF DENIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mrs. A. J. Webbe £10, Lady Lely £1, Anon £5, Anon £5, Anon £1/1/-.

Per Miss Gliksten £7/19/-.

Per Miss Forbes Robertson 3/3.

We have pleasure in acknowledging 20 marks (£1) from "A Devonshire Girl."

MAGISTRATES AND LAWLESSNESS.

We have been asked to publish the following correspondence:—

[COPY.]
Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement,
13 Buckingham St., Strand, W.C.
June 8th, 1914.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Haldane, of Cloan,
28 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

My Lord,—At a large meeting of the above Union, held on Friday, June 5th, it was unanimously resolved that I should enquire of your Lordship:—Whether it is in accordance with the judicial duties of a magistrate to make such remarks as were made at the Westminster Police Court by Mr. Hopkins, on Monday, May 25th:—

"Some day the exasperated crowd will break into a procession of militants, and then what will happen to you women, nobody knows."

And at the South-Western Police Court by Mr. Lister Drummond, on Monday, June 1st, when in discharging some young men for trying to throw a woman speaker in the pond:—

"The behaviour of the women has created a strong feeling of resentment."

Seeing that these observations are a direct incitement to lawlessness.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) VICTOR D. DUVAL.

[COPY.]
House of Lords, S.W.
The 11th June, 1914.

Sir,—I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and to say that it would be inexpedient, and it is no part of his duty, to criticise or interfere with the details of magisterial business, whether as to proceedings or the utterances of those who are entrusted with the jurisdiction.

It may, however, be added, with reference to the particular remarks quoted in your letter, that the natural meaning of the words conveys a warning against lawlessnes rather than the incitement to it.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
K. MUIR MACKENZIE.

VICTOR D. DUVAL, Esq.

Mr. McKENNA IN A CLEFT STICK.

On Thursday, June 11, Mr. McKenna made a speech in the House of Commons concerning militancy and the Government's methods of dealing with it, which calls for comment on several points.

Various ways had been suggested to him of "dealing with" militancy. The first was "let them die." He could not do that as the death of twenty or thirty would lead to a revulsion of feeling in their favour. Secondly, it had been suggested that they might be deported. This was impracticable as they would both hunger strike and, in all probability, escape and return. (He did not add that the numbers he would have to deport would make it impossible.) Thirdly, they might be treated as lunatics. He felt sure that doctors would not be found to "sign them up." Fourthly, their just demands might be conceded. This, Mr. McKenna said, could not be discussed now. In other words anything (except the ruin of Reginald McKenna's career) was better than doing justice to women.

It is however a step in advance for a Member of the Government to admit that to give the vote to women would be a solution of militancy. We had scarcely thought that such an idea had penetrated the Parliamentary mind.

Mr. McKenna deplored in his speech the "fact" that militants are "paid to do it." He mentioned sums of thirty shillings to two pounds a week. This charge, taken in conjunction with Mr. McKenna's fear that if he "let them die," twenty or thirty might do so, is so grotesque as scarcely to be worth refuting. Would Mr. McKenna—or for that matter any sane man or woman—die of self-starvation for 30s. or £2 a week, a salary which could scarcely benefit them when dead? And as to the sanity of the militants, Mr. McKenna himself admits that even his paid women-torturers would not risk their professional reputation so far as to sign the Suffragettes up as lunatics.

The Home Secretary finds himself left, then, with no way of dealing with militancy except the rigorous administration of the "Cat and Mouse" Act and an attack upon the subscribers to militant funds. This last suggestion proves either that Mr. McKenna is a fool or that he secretly believes that to encourage acts of militancy will, with the aid of a press which advocates lynch law, be the quickest way of killing the movement. For it is obvious that it is not militancy but constitutional propaganda which costs money. The price of fuel to burn down half a dozen houses is as nothing compared with the cost of hiring a large hall in London and organising a big meeting. Is it Mr. McKenna's idea so to deplete the funds of the W.S.P.U. that a campaign of violence and arson shall be the only branch of its work which it can afford to carry on?

Lastly, the Home Secretary denied that the "Cat and Mouse" Act had been a failure. It ensured that punishment would be administered. A six to eight days' hunger and thirst strike was far more severe he said than two or three months' imprisonment under ordinary conditions of human life. On Mr. McKenna's own showing then Miss Pankhurst has endured during the eight times she has been imprisoned a punishment far more severe than over two years' imprisonment, and this for an offence which is not known in modern law and for which an obsolete Act, hundreds of years' old, had to be raked up in order to secure a conviction. Are the men of East London, sympathisers or not, who believes in fair play, content to see a woman persecuted in this manner when, on the basis of Mr. McKenna's calculation she endured a penalty "far more severe" than her whole sentence on the occasion of her first imprisonment on this charge?

AMERICAN WOMEN AND WAR.

At the regular meeting of the Mothers' Club on April 22nd, 1914, the following resolutions were passed:—

Resolved—That the Mothers' Club of the Henry Street Settlement protest vigorously against the present war between the United States and Mexico, and deplore deeply the needless loss of human lives. As mothers they feel deeply the great sorrow that this war will bring to thousands of homes.

They protest equally against the wholesale slaughter by the State militia of the striking miners in the Ludlow district of Colorado, the burning and shooting down of helpless women and children, who were entitled to protection from the Government.

Resolved—That a copy of this protest shall be sent to the League of Mothers' Clubs, in order to arouse the sentiment of the mothers who, more than anyone else, will suffer from the loss of their beloved.

The great Russian poet, Nekrasov, said in his poem:—

THE MOURNER.

As to war's terrors and alarms I list,
When some new victim hath his life-blood shed,
'Tis not his wife I pity, nor his friend,
Nor grieve I for the hero who is dead.
The wife in time will cease to mourn her loss,
The best of friends and comrades will forget;
But there is one who will remember him
Even unto her grave, with eyes still wet.
Amid our trivial, hypocritic lives,
The only tears all holy and sincere
That I have seen, are those by mother shed,
Who sorrow for their children, ever dear.
Their children on the bloody field who fell
They ne'er forget, but mourn them all their days.
Like are they to the weeping willow tree,
That never can its drooping branches raise.

Rendered into English verse by Alice Stone Blackwell.)

W.S.P.U. RAIDED FOR THE THIRD TIME.

The police have once again descended upon the W.S.P.U. offices which had been moved temporarily to Campden Hill Square. They say they have seized "important documents"—after all they have to say something! No arrests were made.

Miss Pankhurst is out of prison but her life is not out of danger. She has said that she will continue her Hunger and Thirst Strike until the Prime Minister consents to receive a Deputation of East End women. She will not give way. Therefore Mr. Asquith must be MADE to give way.

NOW WHILST SVLVIA PANKHURST IS FASTING.

In view of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's heroic and dangerous effort to secure that the East London Deputation shall be received by the Prime Minister, the Honorary Treasurer and Committee of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes urge that now whilst Miss Pankhurst is fasting another week of self-denial for our funds should be entered upon by all who hope that success may attend her effort and that her life may be spared.

Self-Denial Cards may be obtained from the Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. SMYTH, to whom all subscriptions should be sent. Funds are urgently needed in this great cause.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO SAVE HER LIFE.

We can go to the House of Commons and urge Members of Parliament to induce the Prime Minister to receive the Deputation.

We can sell the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT that all the facts may be known to the public, and to add to the funds.

We can get resolutions passed by our Trade Unions, Co-operative Guilds, and Sick Clubs, urging the Prime Minister to receive the Deputation.

We can march to Westminster Abbey on Sunday next, June 21, and pray that Sylvia Pankhurst's life may be preserved, and Votes granted to Women this year.

Those who want to help should call at 321 Roman Road, Bow, or 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar.

Who will pay for the Posters for this week's paper?

"SHALL SYLVIA PANKHURST DIE?"

To be displayed on the 'Buses.

Who will pay 670 pence for the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT" to be sent to every Member of Parliament?

Who will lobby the Members and call on Cabinet Ministers?

These things must be done AT ONCE!!

QUIET and economical Sea Village Lodgings.—Mrs. Hoddinott, "Holme Cottage," Chidock, near Bridport.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.